

Message Text

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12

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FM AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1672

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 253

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EMIN, EIND, ENRG, TD, JA, GY, NS

SUBJECT: CARIBBEAN JOINT VENTURE ALUMINUM SMELTER AND MARKETING
COMPANY

REF: PARAMARIBO 247

1. FURTHER ENQUIRIES REGARDING PROPOSED JOINT VENTURE ALUM-
INUM SMELTER IN TRINIDAD HAVE YIELDED ADDITIONAL VIEWS. ACCORD-
ING TO DR. ABRAHAMS, GOS PLANNING OFFICE BAUXITE POLICY
SPECIALIST, GOS IS AWARE OF SCHEME BUT HAS NOT BEEN OFFICIALLY
APPROACHED. ABRAHAMS REGARDS PLAN AS PRIMARILY POLITICAL
IN INTENT, MOTIVATED BY PM WILLIAMS DESIRE TO STRENGTHEN
TRINIDAD'S POSITION IN CARICOM AND CARIFTA. ABRAHAMS SEEMED
DUBIOUS ABOUT VENTURE, POINTING OUT GUYANA'S LONG RANGE AIM
OF PRODUCING ALUMINUM BY DEVELOPING ITS OWN HYDROELECTRIC
RESOURCES AND MENTIONING JAMAICA'S AMBITION TO CONSTRUCT
A NUCLEAR ENERGY FACILITY FOR THE SAME PURPOSE. HE OBSERVED
THAT MAIN CONTRIBUTION EXPECTED OF SURINAM WOULD PROBABLY BE
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TO SHARE COSTS.

2. AN INDUSTRY SOURCE ALSO AWARE OF SCHEME ASKED SARDONICALLY WHERE SURINAM WOULD OBTAIN ITS ALUMINA CONTRIBUTION "FROM GRASSALCO?" A REFERENCE TO THE GOS-REYNOLDS JOINT VENTURE WHICH IS STILL MERELY A PAPER ORGANIZATION. HE REMARKED, HOWEVER, THAT PERHAPS A TOKEN CONTRIBUTION COULD BE OBTAINED FROM BILLITON, IN WHICH GOS HAS AN OPTION TO ACQUIRE A 25 PERCENT INTEREST. AS FOR SURALCO (THE ALCOA SUBSIDIARY), ITS ALUMINA OUTPUT IS COMMITTED BY FIRM CONTRACT FAR IN ADVANCE. THE INDUSTRY SOURCE, WHO TRAVELLED RECENTLY TO JAMAICA, LABELLED THE NUCLEAR ENERGY SCHEME "A PIPE DREAM." JOHNSTON

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Message Attributes

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